

At page 25, lines 4-6, please replace the abstract with --The present invention provides methods for identifying compounds which modulate the activity of MSH5.--.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-12 and 15-21 without prejudice and amend claim 14 as follows:

14. (**Amended**) The method of claim 13, wherein said compound inhibits the activity of MSH5 [is inhibited].

Please add new claims 22-29 as follows:

22. The method of claim 14, wherein said compound is a contraceptive agent.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein said compound is capable of modulating MSH5 expression.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said compound is an antisense MSH5 nucleic acid molecule.

25. The method of claim 13, wherein said compound is a small molecule.

26. The method of claim 13, wherein said compound is an MSH5 antibody.

27. The method of claim 13, wherein said compound is a peptide.

28. The method of claim 13, wherein said compound is a peptidomimetic.

29. The method of claim 13, wherein said compound has an effect on an MSH5 substrate.